

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Resta Detwiler
Rose Muise
Laura Bogardus
Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep.
Bill Fisher

Commission Members Absent:

Richard Ballou

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment: None.

4). Review of Minutes:

May 11, 2016- Page 3, #8, add "to".

Motion: (Detwiler, second Connolly) to approve the minutes as amended passed 4-0-3 (King, Bogardus, Muise- abstained).

5). Old Business:

A). French Property (Dave)- Mr. Connolly told the members that the trail is almost completed but the parking and habitat areas need to be cleaned and marked at a cost of an additional \$500 to \$1,000. He said it is expected to take a few days to finish the work but it could take up to a month depending on the weather and work schedules. Some members stated they had no problem spending the additional funds as they had no time to volunteer to complete the work due to their own work schedules but still would like to see the work completed.

Motion: (King, second Bogardus) to approve the additional funding not to exceed \$1,000 passed 7-0.

Mr. Connolly then said it is also time for the annual monitoring walks of the French and Dubois properties. He will notify the members when the Fish and Game Dept. sets the date for the walks.

B). Town Forest (Dave) -

1). Yurick- Mr. Connolly said the commission had previously approved up to \$1,700 for Mr. Yurick to seed and mulch the log landing area and to enlarge the parking area. The DPW supplied enough gravel for two parking spots and will provide more gravel to further enlarge the parking area later in the season he said. He added that Mr. Yurick and DPW Director Dale Sprague informed him there are five or six

large dead trees that need to be removed. Mr. Sprague said the trees will be removed when the contracted tree service comes in to perform other tree work scheduled by the town.

2). Abbott Sign- The members thanked Mr. Fisher for his work in repairing the Abbott sign. Mr. Fisher noted that the sign also needs to be straightened and stained which he plans to do in about a month to allow the new wood to “weather”.

C). Dubois Property- At the previous meeting members discussed a proposal to fertilize the log landing at a cost of about \$450 (\$150 for 500 lbs. of fertilizer and \$300 for labor) but tabled the matter to allow members to visit the site. Discussion included no one visited the site, the site will be part of the monitoring walk with Fish and Game, if the fertilizing is necessary, what is the purpose of fertilizing the landing, how much product is needed and what will happen if the landing is not fertilized. Consensus of the commission was to take up the matter again at the July meeting.

D). Hay Day- Mr. Connolly reported that Mr. Fisher was able to reserve the “Recycling Wagon” for the Cons. Com. booth at the event to be held on Aug. 20. Mr. Connolly will provide the fur kit and tables and chairs. Ms. Detwiler said she has contacted the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways to invite them to participate and is awaiting a response. Mr. Orvis suggested the Fish and Game Dept. be contacted to see if they could provide brochures or items related to the event theme of “Just Keep Swimming” (ocean). Mr. Connolly said Jonathan Beckman, winner of the one week sponsorship at Barry 4-H Camp will be on hand to make a presentation. Mr. King and Ms. Detwiler offered to loan their canopies to the commission for the event.

E). Any Other Old Business-

1). Spring Clean-Up- Mr. Connolly said he wished to thank all of the donors and participants in the clean-up as follows; Cons. Com. members, Farmington Police Chief Jay Drury and Police Officers for providing security and participation in the clean-up, Boy Scout Troop 188 for their speedy clean up of Meetinghouse Hill Road which allowed the group to clean more roads than originally planned, Honey Dew Donuts, Farmington House of Pizza and Bill Fisher for their donations of refreshments and to all of the residents who participated and restored his faith in the event Connolly said. Discussion also included participants received a certificate of thanks, other towns/cities have a larger number of participants, they also participate in other activities beside trash pick-up on the same day such as spreading mulch, how to increase participation, hold a contest or raffle tied to the event, ask the companies whose trash is found in the area such as MacDonald’s, beer companies and Coke to participate, donate or offer a prize/certificate and a total of 700 pounds of trash was collected.

2). Pound Road Easement- Mr. Connolly reported the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) applied for a grant to offset the cost of obtaining a conservation easement for the Hill property on Pound Road. He announced that \$3,500 will be awarded to the Conservation Commission to help offset the \$10,000 previously approved by the commission for the project.

3). Ronci Handicapped Access- Mr. Orvis said he would like to move forward with the handicapped fishing access for the Ronci property and asked the members how they wished to proceed. Mr. Connolly said an attorney advised that an Americans with Disabilities Act expert is needed to engineer the design, the project would need to be put out to bid and a site walk with the engineer would need to be scheduled. Discussion included if the RFP should request just a design or a design/build proposal, the cost estimate could be about \$15,000 to \$20,000 based on grants awarded for similar projects, what

types of grants are available and where to apply for them, targeting professionals in the area and characteristics of the river. Mr. Connolly said he will draft a RFP for review at the July meeting.

6). New Business:

A). LeClair Monitoring Report- Mr. Connolly said an inspection of the LeClair property easement on Sheepboro Road showed that there have been no alterations since the last inspection and the property is in compliance based on the observations. Members also discussed the significant amount of clear cutting running from the front of the LeClair home one and one-half miles up the road which was done by the contractor who is bringing in power to a neighbor's home. Mr. Connolly said the issue is a civil matter between the residents and the town is not involved unless the stream or the 50 year flood line is affected.

B). Any Other New Business- None.

7). FYI:

A). Wetlands Impact Notification- Chairman Connolly said the commission received a Forestry Notification of a Wetlands Minimum Impact permit for property on Route 11 near the New Durham town line.

B). Intent to Cut- Mr. Connolly said he received several Notices of Intent to Cut in town and will file them in the commission files in the Municipal Office Building.

8). July Meeting Dates:

A). Next Cons. Com Meeting- Wednesday, July 13 at 6 p.m.

9). Any Other Business:

Mr. Connolly said he received a stack of free signs from the Fish and Game Landowner Assoc. asking "Anglers" to respect the land and the generosity of landowners and the town for providing an opportunity to fish. He said the signs will be placed on the French, Dubois and Town Forest properties.

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 7-0 at 7:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary